

SATURDAY GAZETTE, APRIL 25.

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

Wm. P. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.

CHAS. M. BAVIN, Associate Editor.

OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

The Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.

An independent weekly journal of LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS and LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fully and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Settled Clergymen in the county and all Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertisers. Our weekly circulation extends to every part of Essex county, and considerably elsewhere. Subscriptions and ADVERTISEMENTS will be received in Montclair, by E. Madison; in Caldwell, by M. Harrison; in Verona, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H. Winsor, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. P. Lyon, Editor, and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

ASSESSMENTS.

It will soon be time for town assessors to make out their schedule of valuations of the separate properties in the townships. If there is anything about which the citizens are one of mind it is that the appraisements of values have generally been unsatisfactory, because unequal and inequitable, as compared one with another.

It is a vexing question and is undoubtedly beset with serious difficulties which many persons are not aware of. The assessment valuations form the basis for County and State tax as well as Town Tax.

If the assessor of a town advances the valuations unduly, that is, out of proportion to the valuations in other towns, his town will be compelled to bear a larger share of the County and State tax. Therefore one of the first principles he acts on is to keep the aggregate valuations of the Real Estate of the town as low as possible, consistent with his official duty and oath. He is the representative of the town and, in his relations to this question and to other towns, he is the embodiment of the town. Here the selfish principle of the town is opposed to the higher moral principles of generosity and patriotism. But it is unavoidable, for each town is presumed to have burdens enough of its own to carry without assuming any that properly belong to others.

Within the bounds of most townships, the real property may be divided into two general classes, Agricultural or Farm Land; and Town Plots for dwellings, Factories or Stores. The first we understand to mean land in plots of many acres from which the owner or occupant supports his family in whole or in great part by the cultivation of the soil; Land that is not adapted, nor wanted, nor saleable for village or "villa" lots. It seems quite important to observe this distinction; and if this be understood it should simplify the Assessor's duty and materially lessen the cause of dissatisfaction and complaint. It is very easy to ascertain what is the general productiveness or possibilities of Agricultural land its range being, in this part of the country, between \$60. and \$150. per acre. It is very rarely the case that it exceeds the latter sum. Great experience, skill and industry are needed to make it pay interest regularly on even that valuation. If then it is held to be worth several hundred dollars per acre it is because it is eligible to change its classification and should be rated under the other class.

It is manifest injustice to every other citizen to allow plots of 20 to 50 acres of land to be held in the midst of a village as farm land, and assessed as such, or at a very little higher valuation, encouraging the cupidity of the owners and retarding the growth of the village and damaging its best interests. These men are consequently exempt from the proportion of taxes which equity requires that their acres of lots should pay, and their neighbors, one-fifth acre lots right adjoining are compelled to pay five, or more times the ratio of tax than relatively belongs to them. We know instances in our villages and every thoughtful man does, where the saleable value of land has doubled or trebled within three years but the land being classed as farm land the tax imposed is advanced the mere trifles. They tell us that the land does not yield enough to pay for the cost of production (which is no doubt true) and therefore, forsooth, it should be assessed as farm land! The fact is it is not adapted, either by location, or quality or value, or treatment, to be farm land. The owner does not wish it for farm land. It has already risen in value to many times its first cost; is just adapted in every respect to make fine building sites; and would command high prices; why does not the owner sell, if he is unwilling to have it bear its ratable proportion of taxation? We have heard of one, owning perhaps 30 acres in a village, selling a lot one-fifth of an acre on a remote corner of his "farm" for \$1,000, (equal to \$5,000 an acre), while he is taxed on an average valuation of \$400 per acre! And what is more trying, such men are always most backward to make improvements themselves, and more ready to object to, and obstruct needed improvements when proposed by others. Agricultural land proper,

should of course be valued on a fair estimate of the productive capabilities of such lands.

All lands in the village, fronting on its built up streets, should be assessed on the same basis no matter what quantity may be owned by one man. Respect must of course be had to the eligibility of location and to the depth of lot. A minimum valuation per foot of frontage, for a standard depth of not exceeding 200 feet, could be the base unit for the valuation of the ground all through the village. In regard to LOCATION the lots should be classified according to the known and available prices of lots in different parts of the village, making, probably, three grades, and consequently three grades of prices per frontage foot for the Assessor's starting point. But this base might well be declared, by the Township Committee, who, as coming from every part of the town should be especially capable of determining it wisely. They would designate which streets or sections should be classed with the minimum grade, which with the average and which with the maximum grade. This would relieve the Assessor of that responsibility and undoubtedly insure more satisfactory results.

Then in regard to VARYING DEPTHS of lots we should say for each additional 100 feet of depth, or fraction thereof, an addition of a fixed percentage of the first rate, or a graduated addition, according to the respective depths, would be proper.

Thus, it will be seen, there would be established a principle of assessment for the land based on equity, fairness and uniformity and not subject to the uncertain judgment or arbitrary rule of one man. Now in regard to the houses there is of course a great variety but there is little difficulty in determining with sufficient accuracy the assessable valuation. We would propose to classify the dwellings and other improvements as follows:

Those not exceeding a cost of \$2,500 between \$2,500 and \$5,000

" " \$5,000 and \$8,000

" " \$8,000 and \$12,000

" " \$12,000 and \$20,000

over \$20,000

This would make six grades and we do not think it would be necessary to discriminate any closer than these limits suggest. An Assessor of any experience can quickly place any house in its appropriate class.

NATIONAL FINANCES.

The United States Senate and House of Representatives, and even the redoubtable General Butler, must all shrink, mortified into the background before the logical wisdom, probity and firmness of our noble President, Ulysses S. Grant.

In our Editorial some weeks ago, on the Boston Customs appointment, we took occasion to commend, in President Grant, the same high characteristics which he has now again evinced in a different way; in this vote of the Senate financial inflation scheme, which so disparaged the three learned bodies first above referred to.

We thank the President for so fully justifying our faith that he would not compromise his well-earned reputation by giving his approval to, so disreputable a measure.

NEW SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

For once, perhaps for the first time, Massachusetts has departed from its accustomed wisdom and its time-honored practice of electing its best man to represent it in Congress, and has now determined to send Gov. Wm. B. Washburn as Senator's successor to the U. S. Senate. He is said to be a man of unblemished character—his life having uniformly evinced purity of motives and uprightness of principles. He completed his academical education at Yale College at the age of twenty-four, and has since been engaged in manufacturing business. He is not without experience in public affairs having served in the State Legislature and in the House of Representatives at Washington; and has thrice been elected Governor of Massachusetts, which post he now occupies. In point of scholarship and cultured refinement he is undoubtedly far inferior to such as Everett, Webster, Sumner, Adams, Dawes and Hoar. His age is 54.

SAVINGS BANK.—Under Special Notices our readers will observe that the People's Savings Institution is removing its office to No. 448 Broad Street, Newark, on the corner of Division Street, and immediately opposite the Morris and Essex Depot.

Deposites of smaller or larger sums, made now, will draw interest at 7 per cent per annum, from the 1st of May.

BUSINESS REVIVAL.—In our walks through Newark, we cannot fail to notice considerable activity among the stores.—The windows of dry goods and some other stores present attractive displays of goods, and at certain hours, throngs of buyers are moving in and out.

ASSESSMENTS.—Under this head, we have given in another column some suggestions for a more equitable way of estimating valuations. We hope it will receive the thoughtful consideration of citizens. We may probably illustrate the advantage of this method in our next issue, unless some other citizen should feel prompted to enlarge upon it. It would materially simplify the Assessor's work, and we do not see that it requires any legislative enactment to justify it or give it force.

UNDERDRAINING.—At this season of the year we most readily appreciate the importance of this subject, but it is not till the visible necessity has disappeared that the consequences of its neglect forces conviction that would guide and strengthen the judgment of the Town Committee in this

conditions of health which many members of the community are left in. It is not difficult to demonstrate that a wise and effective system of drainage established in a town would contribute more to the health and longevity of its inhabitants than all the physicians and apothecary shops in the town if they were multiplied many times.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE has grown to be a very interesting and creditable feature of the GAZETTE, which intelligent and cultured readers will appreciate. Our weekly sales are increasing considerably.

RUTGERS SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL.

From a careful examination of the last Annual Report of the Scientific School of Rutgers College, made to the Legislature according to law, we infer that the institution is doing a grand work in the line of its vocation.

It has two principal courses of study, either of which, students may elect and pursue exclusively. They are: A Course in Civil Engineering and Mechanics, and a Course in Chemistry and Agriculture. These Courses extend through four years and include literary as well as scientific studies.

The Institution is a well proved and decided success. The education acquired here is as sound as that furnished in the Classical department, the difference between the two consisting rather in the nature of the subjects than in the methods and the intellectual discipline employed.

There is an experimental farm belonging to this school where students in agriculture and Chemistry test theories, practice methods, determine results and learn to be skillful and proficient. This is a valuable acquisition to the institution.

The Faculty is now constituted as follows:

Rev. Wm. H. Campbell, D. D., LL. D., President, and Professor of Moral Philosophy.

George H. Cook, Ph. D., LL. D., Vice President, and Professor of Chemistry, Natural History and Agriculture.

David Murray, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Natural History and Astronomy.

Rev. Theodore S. Doolittle, D. D., Professor of Rhetoric, Logic and Mental Philosophy.

John C. Smock, A. M., Professor of Mining and Metallurgy.

George W. Atherton, A. M., Professor of History, Political Economy and Constitutional Law.

Rev. Carl Meyer, D. D., Professor of French and German.

Francis C. Van Dyck, A. M., Professor of Analytical Chemistry.

Edward A. Bowes, M. B., C. E., Professor of Mathematics and Engineering.

Isaac E. Hasbrouck, A. M., Adjunct Professor of Mathematics and Graphics.

Charles G. Rockwood, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy.

James K. Barton, B. S., C. E., Tutor in Mathematics.

Professor Murray, having been appointed to the important and honorable position of Commissioner of Education, by the Japanese Government, has been granted leave of absence by the Trustees of this Institution, and still ranks as a member of the Faculty.

Professor Hasbrouck has returned from Europe where he had been paying particular attention to draughting, both theoretical and in its applications to the mechanical arts.

HOME MATTERS.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre, April.

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

At 7 A. M. 42° 40° 34° 37° 43° 44° 40°

At Noon 46° 36° 44° 56° 41° 49° 46°

At 9 P. M. 42° 36° 40° 48° 42° 44° 45°

BLOOMFIELD.

STREET IMPROVEMENT LAW.—What is our Town Committee doing under the last "Street Improvement Bill?" The first step was the construction of a new map of Bloomfield which we believe was completed in January.

But there are other steps provided for in the law, and they are the grand objects for which this expense was incurred and this first map was made. A second map was contemplated, which should delineate the Town Committee's scheme for streets in the town. This was expected to mark out where new streets should be opened and existing streets straightened, widened, graded, or closed, when called for by owners of a majority of the linear feet of land fronting on each line.

True, this was not mandatory but simply "useful," and perhaps, therefore, optional with the Town Committee; but on this point there may be various opinions.

It is evident, however, that the \$2,500 paid for the first map has been as good as thrown away if we proceed no farther.

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Mr. SOMERVILLE, the efficient and courteous Station Agent in charge of the Morris and Essex Railroad at this place, is also a man of taste, as all will be convinced one of these days when the weather shall permit him to exhibit his floricultural skill in the centre of the carriage turnaround at the depot. He is always making some improvement about his home—the people's halting place.

MONTCLAIR.

MONTCLAIR TOWN COUNCIL.
The Township Committee met on Saturday evening, April 18th, for organization, and Alfred Taylor was elected permanent chairman.

Suitable rooms for meeting of Town Commissioners and Road Commissioners have been engaged in Jacobs Building; action of Committee in doing so was approved.

Regular monthly meetings of Town Committee are to be held on first Wednesday in each month. But until the present accumulation of road business is disposed of, the Committee will meet every Wednesday night.

Bond of Collector was fixed at \$30,000.

The Collector, Assessor, Surveyors of Highways, Commissioners of Appeals, Road Commissioners, and Constables appeared and were sworn in, or sent in the necessary affidavits and bonds required by law.

J. B. Clark, Amos Crane, Jas. H. Baldwin, John McGarry, were appointed Board Masters, for the year.

Joseph Carson was elected Superintendent of Roads. The Overseer of Poor was elected to procure supplies for Town Poor-house no longer from the village stores at retail prices, but he must make requisition on the Town Committee at each monthly meeting for supplies wanted for the next ensuing month.

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